

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 17, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

Submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 CFR §1.131.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 have been rejected by the Examiner. Applicants provide remarks herein that remove a cited reference as prior art, thereby obviating related rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 15-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hong ("Coronary Artery Calcium: Absolute Quantification in Nonenhanced and Contrast-enhanced Multi-Director Row CT Studies", Radiology, volume 223, pages 474-480, March 29, 2002).

Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

The subject matter of Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 15-28 was invented prior to Hong being described in a printed publication. Submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131 establishing conception of the invention of Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 15-28, prior to March 29, 2002 (the on-line publication date of Hong cited by the Examiner), and diligent reduction to practice of the invention prior to March 29, 2002. The Declaration and accompanying attachments show a completion of the claimed subject matter prior to the effective date of Hong (see Attachment A). Thus, Hong is not prior art.

Dependent claims inherit all of the limitations of the respective parent claim and any intervening claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Hong has properly been removed as a prior art reference, that Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 15-28, and claims dependent from those claims, are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request notice thereof.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-7, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong in view of Arnold (U.S. Patent No. 4,922,915). For at least the reasons described above with regard to Claim 1, from which Claims 6-7 depend, Hong does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1. The addition of Arnold does not cure this deficiency. Therefore, neither Hong nor Arnold, alone or combination, teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 6-7. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 6-7 are patentable over Hong in view of Arnold.

Claims 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong in view of Arnold and Feldman (U.S. Patent No. 5,22,021). For at least the reasons described above with regard to Claim 1, from which Claims 10-14 depend, Hong does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1. As stated above, the addition of Arnold does not cure this deficiency. The addition of Feldman alone or in combination with Arnold does not cure this deficiency. Therefore, neither Hong nor Arnold nor Feldman, alone or combination, teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 10-14. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 1-14 are patentable over Hong in view of Arnold and Feldman.

Conclusion

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

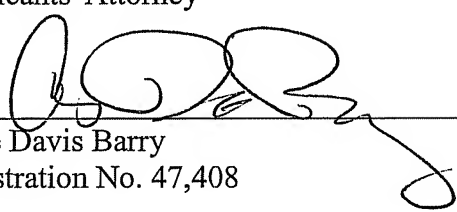
In the event the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, Applicants' attorneys respectfully request the courtesy of a telephone conference.

In the event that there are any additional fees with respect to this Amendment, Applicants' attorneys respectfully request that such fees be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 07-0845 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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